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REMARKS

The Specification and Claims have been amended to eliminate the formal imperfections pointed to by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-18 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) over the cited pages from the Dell website: www.dell.com. It is submitted that the pages from the Dell Website cited by Examiner do not have an effective publication date prior to the March 31, 1999 filing date of the present Application.

The Examiner has cited three section from the Dell Website. In one of the sections, with subtitle: The Dell Online Store: Your Cart, the earliest date listed is a "Copyright 2001-2002". Thus this section may not be used as an anticipatory reference for an Application filed March 31, 1999.

As to the other two sections with the subtitles: Dell Computer - Laptop, Desktop, Workstation, Server and Dell Computer - Small & Medium Business;..., respectively, the earliest dates found in each are "Copyright 1999-2002".

Thus, the latter two publications do not establish which if any portions thereof have a publication date prior to the March 31, 1999 filing date of this Application. Neither is an effective anticipatory reference.

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Accordingly, it is submitted that the Dell Website publication cited by Examiner is not an anticipatory reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(a).

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-18 are now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.


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VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

On page 2, lines 7 through 9, please replace the sentence with a sentence that reads as follows:

--This advance has been even further accelerated by the extensive consumer and business involvement ~~in~~ over the Internet.--.

From page 4, line 24 through page 5, line 11, please replace the two sentences with two sentence which read as follows:

--The present invention provides another solution involving reconciling the system needs solutions of the purchasers with the overall business rules of the seller, i.e. the manufacturer/~~distributor~~distributor, so as to help the business needs of the seller to optimize its quantities of sold computer components and thereby enhance its profits. In the present invention, the ~~distributor~~ distributor or manufacturer which has developed the process for configuring computer systems or networks and which is the seller of the components still provides a configuration process comprising a prompting system for computer purchasers to make a sequence of interactive data entries, each of said entries relative to the data processing needs of the purchaser of one of said computer systems, allocating said computer components to said computer systems based upon said user entries which are indicative of the system needs solution of that purchaser, and tracking the quantities of said computer components thereby allocated to computer systems sold by said seller to said purchasers.--

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In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 to read:

--1. (Amended) A user interactive display computer system, provided by a seller of computer components to purchasers of computer systems, for configuring computer systems including said computer components comprising:

means for prompting each of a plurality of said system purchasers to make a sequence of interactive data entries, each of said entries relative to the data processing needs of the purchaser of one of said computer systems;

means for applying a set of purchaser business rules to the data entries of each of said purchasers to produce a system needs solution for each of said purchasers;

means for allocating said computer components to the computer system of each purchaser based upon said system needs solution for the purchaser;

means for tracking the quantities of each of said computer components thereby allocated to computer systems sold by said seller to all of said purchasers;

means for applying a set of seller business rules to the tracked quantities of each of said computer components to produce a set of optimized quantities for each of said computer components based on the seller's business needs; and

means for offering to selected ones of said purchasers modifications in the quantities of selected ones of said allocated components to thereby reconcile said purchasers' system needs or system solutions with said optimized quantities of said components based upon the seller's business needs.--

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Please amend claim 7 to read:

--7. (Amended) In a user interactive display computer process, provided by a seller of computer components to purchasers of computer systems, for configuring computer systems including said computer components, steps comprising:

prompting each of a plurality of said system purchasers to make a sequence of interactive data entries, each of said entries relative to the data processing needs of the purchaser of one of said computer systems;

applying a set of purchaser business rules to the data entries of each of said purchasers to produce a system needs solution for each of said purchasers;

allocating said computer components to the computer system of each purchaser based upon said system needs solution for the purchaser;

tracking the quantities of each of said computer components thereby allocated to computer systems sold by said seller to all of said purchasers;

applying a set of seller business rules to the tracked quantities of each of said computer components to produce a set of optimized quantities for each of said computer components based on the seller's business needs; and

offering to selected ones of said purchasers modifications in the quantities of selected ones of said allocated components to thereby reconcile said purchasers' system needs or system solutions with said optimized quantities of said components based upon the seller's business needs.--

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Please amend claim 13 to read:

--13. (Amended) A computer program ~~having program code~~ included on a computer readable medium operable in a user interactive display computer system provided by a seller of computer components to purchasers of computer systems, for configuring computer systems including said computer components comprising:

means for prompting each of a plurality of said system purchasers to make a sequence of interactive data entries, each of said entries relative to the data processing needs of the purchaser of one of said computer systems;

means for applying a set of purchaser business rules to the data entries of each of said purchasers to produce a system needs solution for each of said purchasers;

means for allocating said computer components to the computer system of each purchaser based upon said system needs solution for the purchaser;

means for tracking the quantities of each of said computer components thereby allocated to computer systems sold by said seller to all of said purchasers;

means for applying a set of seller business rules to the tracked quantities of each of said computer components to produce a set of optimized quantities for each of said computer components based on the seller's business needs; and

means for offering to selected ones of said purchasers modifications in the quantities of selected ones of said allocated components to thereby reconcile said purchasers' system needs or system solutions with said optimized quantities of said components based upon the seller's business needs.

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